

SECAC MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2017, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Jackson, Mississippi

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Ricky Boggan, Margarette Davenport (phone), John Davis, Johnny Franklin, Tamara Garner (representative for David Chandler), Brittany Herrington, Rochelle Johnson (phone), Patty Marshall, April May, Lora Mederos, Mimmo Parisi, Robin Parker, Sandra Parks (phone), Laurie Smith, Holly Spivey, Nita Norphlet-Thompson, Mary Ulmer (representative for David Dzielak), Carolyn Willis (phone), Carey Wright

OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Atchison, Carol Burnett, Debbie Ellis, Tate Gould, Micca Knox, Candice Pittman, Delores Suel, Cathy Sykes, Matt Williams

MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. Approval of Minutes
 2. SECAC Updates
 3. Public/Additional Comments
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MINUTES

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ricky Boggan opened discussion on the minutes from the December 7 SECAC meeting. Johnny Franklin motioned to accept the minutes. April May seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved the motion.

SECAC Updates

Dr. Carey Wright gave a presentation on 2016 kindergarten-readiness data.

Chair Boggan moved the discussion to 2017 SECAC priorities. Smith said the council needs to revisit the committees and goals of SECAC. Dr. Gould shared information about other states acts. He said Mississippi is much farther ahead than most other SECACs in the country.

Smith introduced Bruce Atchison of the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Atchison said ECS serves the people behind the policy through research, counseling, and convening. He said ECS has 50-plus staff that look at what other states are doing policy-wise. He said ECS will testify across states, has a national forum to discuss different issues, and serves all types of entities. He said ECS has early-learning, secondary, and postsecondary institutes and that anyone can send an education-related question to ECS, which typically can answer such a question within 24 hours.

Atchison made reference to an ECS project document that covers birth to third grade. He said while prekindergarten gets the bulk of attention from a policy perspective, the document focuses on the K-3 component. He said the reason for that is that states like Mississippi have recently passed legislation related to improving third-grade reading success. He said there is a disconnect across the country between what's going on in birth

to 5 and what's going on in the K-3 component. He said transitions are just one piece of that. He said the goal of the proposed project is to examine quality in K-3 components across the country to give states some insight into what they can do to improve. He said ECS would be willing to offer support to Mississippi to help improve the state's K-3 component through a subcommittee. Smith said SECAC will have more discussion on establishing this subcommittee in its next meetings.

Smith said the National Governors Association meeting that she and Gov. Bryant attended went very well. She mentioned actress Jennifer Garner's interest in helping Mississippi. She said Garner visited Alligator, Mississippi, to look at a local program. Smith said Garner was at the NGA meeting, and the governors signed a position statement that they will support early childhood. Gov. Bryant shared Mississippi's plan with all the governors. Governor Bryant and Smith met with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and shared the Family Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System amongst other education issues.

Cathy Sykes gave an update on the state plan, "A Family-Based Unified and Integrated Early Childhood System." She said MDHS is working with families on vouchers. She said MDHS is also working with the Mississippi Community College Board on the establishment of early childhood academies, which will provide technical assistance to child care centers..

Micca Knox gave an update on the early childhood academies. She mentioned the 10 participating community colleges. She said three more colleges will be coming on board soon.

Chair Boggan said the next SECAC meeting will be important, as the council will look to set up a committee structure.

Public/Additional Comments

Ellis said providers are not happy with the current transitional process. She said they do not blame Cathy Sykes. She said Sykes does a really good job with federal programs. She said she appreciates Sykes asking for input. Ellis said Pittman met with providers about the standard child care application. She said the application says "Do not distribute." She said providers across the state had it before the workgroup meeting occurred, though. She said she is concerned about the new application being another QRIS. Ellis cited the 1997 NAEYC accreditation of California; the facilities that became accredited were rated as being mediocre on ECERS, a widely used and respected measure. She said she opposes ECERS and ITERS because they have been shown not to measure social readiness and school readiness. She said the average child in Connecticut is served by \$14,000. Georgia gets roughly \$7,000 per child. She said only \$346 goes to her center per child. She said she wants to support curriculum, and she said she has always been about quality. She said the current situation is not acceptable.

Carol Burnett said she wants to speak about the standard child care center application. She said this online application could be an impediment to Child Care Payment Program providers. She said she wants to know whether a center that fills out the application will automatically be in CCPP and get the necessary technical assistance, or if there will be a determination period that could eliminate centers after application submission. Chair Boggan pointed out this is not a function of SECAC and that this line of question needs to be directed toward Sykes at MDHS.

Matt Williams asked SECAC about the standard application: if the responses to the application indicate that a licensed center needs to make an improvement to curriculum,

is there a case where there would be a cost, and how would that cost be covered?

Ellis said there are two accredited NAEYC centers in Mississippi. She said their rates for infants/toddlers are \$365 a month. She said providers need to know how much money they are going to get to do what the state is asking.

Chair Boggan adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.
